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Benjamin Harrison to Alexander Donald, July 29, 1785

Benjamin Harrison

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My dear Friend

Brandon July 29th 1785

I bear your reproof with patience, because in some degree it is not unmerited - however I do not mean to render myself altogether culpable, for be assured it was my intention not only to have answered, but to have thanked you, for your favour of the 13th - much company, & a kind of false modesty, in leaving them, prevented my having that pleasure. I now feel a moment with a head much confused by a smart touch of the Ague & Fever, am preparing to do what might have been done before nearly with the same degree of convenience. The whole of what passed between you & Mr. Matthews was perfectly right, & consistent with yourself. ~~As~~ If you have not as yet written to Mr. Tabb I would request you to decline it - I have considered my self under some small pecuniary obligations to that Gentleman & would chuse to repay them in kind - indeed I am now indebted to him about £19. & perhaps he may think it rather indelicate to make a demand, as soon as his Bond falls into my hands - you my dear Friend who have ever been as anxious for my reputation^{as} I have myself been, will readily apply this reasoning; I am nevertheless most grateful for your intentions.

This day is the meeting of our Fishing Club, & this day fortnight the next, before that period I hope you will honour us with your company & that you will

bring Mr. Manson with you - considering you as a man
of taste, I think you must be pleased with the good humour
& good cheer of our Club - but come & see. One of your
Ships went by today, would to God the other was gone
also! - you will then have no excuse for depriving us
of your company. None of your ifs, & ands my good
Sir. respecting the Norfolk Trip, for I expect this same
Cape ^{Expedition} will be of service to my Health, & besides I promise
myself infinite pleasure in the party of a few friends.
You I know are a Man of your word, and with you
have a truce to all objections. - I find you & Cousin
James must have a battle at last, before you are able
to understand each other, on this last occasion I declare
he was culpable, you certainly did as well as the rest
of your company desired or had a right to expect, and
as I then was, so am I still, of the same opinion, that the
Dinner was very well. You & my name sake will long ere
this have settled your misunderstanding, & Miss A. L. - a
have given sufficient proof of her abilities to support
the attacks of you both. Betsy will take pleasure
in preparing your Pickles - She is well & desires to
be affectionately remembered to you. -

Your Friend W. Gammell has the sincere thanks
of Col. Harrison, not only for the trouble he
had taken, but also for his very obliging expressions.
I hope soon to know whether I may depend on the Times

Home or not, at the Season for laying Bricks will be
over in a few months. — The best wishes of all
here attend you, but particularly those of my
dear Sir,

Y^r. truly aff^{te} Friend

Ben. Harrison

P. S.

You do not say a word of
the Sugar from Mr. D. R.

I suppose he did not succeed
in his application. B. H.

Alexander Donald Esq.

Richmond

London
29 July 1785
Jm. Thomson

